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## WASHINGTON GOSSIP.

A FEW CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PRESIDENT'S CALLERS.

A Peep at What is Going on in the Various Departments Where There are Many Probable Changes to be Made—Interesting National News.

WASHINGTON, May 16.—A New Jersey delegation consisting of Representatives Robert S. Green of the Third district; A. E. Gordon, and ex-Representative Miles Ross, gave the president some suggestions about the way New Jersey offices should be distributed, for which the president in return gave them his thanks, but nothing further of a positive character. William A. Hensel, the chairman of the democratic committee of Pennsylvania, also occupied the attention of the president for a few minutes. There were several hundred persons who paid their respects to the president in the east room in the afternoon. Among them were a party of tourists from England and two Indian boys from one of the Indian schools. As the boys were leaving the room one of the Englishmen asked them what was the principal purpose of the Indian schools. One of the boys answered that he did not know exactly except it was to give positions to the teachers of the schools, though in further responses he admitted that Indians were incidentally benefited.

One of the callers in the east room came from Baltimore. During the campaign he wrote a pamphlet entitled, "Who Will be Our Next President?" In it, though he endeavored to be as thoroughly non-partisan as he could, he ventured the prediction that either Cleveland or Blaine would be elected. The author had prepared a short speech to read to the president in presenting him with a copy of his pamphlet, but in consequence of an attack of nervousness just as he reached the president he forgot to do so. He afterward got over by reading the speech to Dave Pruden, the president's confidential clerk, who has the gift of patience far above that of ordinary mortals. Other attaches of the white house also listened. A group of newspaper men were also among the interested listeners.

When Assistant Treasurer Graves was asked of the truth of the statement made by the New York Sun, that his appointment to be chief of the bureau of engraving and printing was interpreted as meaning the ultimate extinction of the bureau and the transfer of the business to a well known bank note company, Mr. Graves replied that he had nothing to say, and did not consider it proper to say anything in reply to a publication whose animus was apparent. As to the motives leading to his appointment, that was a matter resting with the appointing power and not with them.

Assistant Secretary Coon, when asked regarding the statement, said: "That is not true. Some years ago when extravagant methods were found to have prevailed in the bureau of engraving and printing, Mr. Graves declared that it would have been better to have had the work done by contract than to turn it into a great political bureau, which was liable to be stuffed at any and all times to meet the exigencies of politicians. But as soon as the bureau was reduced to a business basis Mr. Graves was heartily in favor of having the work done there. If he had not been I should not have welcomed his appointment, as I do, as a step in the right direction, for I heartily approve of the idea of the government doing its work on business principles."

"What is meant by the statement that Mr. Graves' appointment will advance the interests of a certain combination?"

"I do not understand that—do you?" asked Mr. Coon. "There is no combination here that I know of, except a combination to transact the public business in a proper manner."

The annual inspection of the military prison at Fort Leavenworth, Kas., will be made by the secretary of war, Adjutant General Drum and Maj. Barr. They have left and will be absent a week.

"This administration is a trifle too slow for me," said one of the candidates for the position of governor of Idaho, "and I think I will withdraw my papers and file an application for another office, probably something in the treasury department. It looked to me some weeks ago as if I had the race for the Idaho governorship. I telegraphed all my friends to that effect. Since then I have received some information from the white house which has nearly broken my heart. I went up to find out when Mr. Bunn, of Pennsylvania, who is now governor of Idaho, would be removed, and was told that in matters of that kind it was decided best to move very slow. I asked if I could get a general idea as to when the change would be made, and was told that it would hardly be done until the term of Governor Bunn expired. That won't be for two years yet. This appears to me to be too very slow. The announcement nearly killed me."

It is understood that by July 1, not one federal official in the state of Virginia or elsewhere who owes his appointment to the influence of Senator Mahone will be in office. The announcement of this fact will bring joy to many applicants and sorrow to the holders of the offices in Virginia who admit that they have already held office longer than they expected under the circumstances.

**Agricultural Department Bankrupt.**

WASHINGTON, May 16.—The department of agriculture is bankrupt. Commissioner Coleman has said that the department had a balance at the treasury of just thirty-five dollars. He did not know what to do. He found that a democratic treasurer was not inclined to follow the republican precedent in advancing money to cover the deficiency in a bankrupt department. Mr. Coleman now regrets that he left St. Louis. He is besieged for places and worried by the friends of people whom he has to dismiss because he has no money. The new commissioner says he thinks he will recommend to congress in the future the abolition of the free circulation of seeds.

**Appointments.**

WASHINGTON, May 16.—The president has

appointed Capt. Henry McElderry assistant surgeon of the United States army, and Lieut. B. H. Buckingham, of the United States navy, members of the executive board at the world's industrial cotton centennial exhibition; Lieut. Buckingham to be president of the board; Capt. McElderry to represent the war department and to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Col. Lyford.

**Naval Cadets' Examination.**

ANNAPOLIS, Md., May 16.—The naval academy is receiving its annual brushing up for the reception of the board of visitors in the latter part of May. The board will officially organize on the 1st of June, when the cadets' annual examination begins, Friday, June 5, has been decided upon as graduation day. One of the board of visitors will deliver the oration, and Secretary of the Navy Whitney will be invited to award the diplomas to the graduates.

**A New Officer.**

WASHINGTON, May 16.—Hon. J. Zachariah Montgomery, of San Francisco, accompanied by Mr. Garland, called on Mr. Lamar and was introduced by him to the employees of the assistant attorney general's office as the coming assistant attorney general of the interior department. He assumes the charge of his office on the 25th inst.

**Big Excitement.**

WASHINGTON, May 16.—The excitement over the senatorial contest in Springfield, Ill., is at fever heat. Crowds of politicians surround the United Press bulletin board eager for the latest news.

**Langster Hung.**

WASHINGTON, May 16.—John Langster (colored), who murdered Policeman Fowler in September last, was hanged in the yard of the district jail. He died in a short time.

**Abolished Poker Playing.**

WASHINGTON, May 16.—The governors of the Metropolitan club, in response to a largely signed petition from its members, have abolished poker playing in the club.

**AMERICANS IN MEXICAN PRISON.**

**The Crew of a Railway Train Imprisoned for an Unavoidable Accident.**

EAGLE PASS, TEX., May 16.—As the south-bound passenger train on the Mexican International railroad was approaching La Aura station a Mexican track-walker was discovered asleep on the track. Before the engineer could stop the train both legs of the sleeping man were cut off. On the arrival of the train at Monclova, the ancient capital of Coahuila, Conductor Bethel and Engineer Thomas Eddings, together with Frank James, agent of the road, and the fireman and two brakemen, were all arrested and thrown into jail, where they now lie awaiting developments. The mutilated Mexican will die. A new crew was sent to Monclova to bring the train back.

This is the third accident of a similar nature on the Mexican International road, which is comparatively a new line, being an extension of the Southern Pacific railroad, from Eagle Pass to Saltillo. In each of the other accidents the engineers, knowing the character of Mexican justice, cut their engines loose from trains and never stopped until they had reached American soil. Those engineers never returned to Mexico. How long Engineer Eddings, Conductor Bethel and Agent James will lie in jail can only be surmised, but judging from similar arrests on the Mexican Central and Mexican National railways during their first year's operation, they will probably spend the entire summer incarcerated in the filthy Mexican prisons. The nearest United States consul to Monclova resides at Saltillo, 120 miles distant. American consuls generally do as they can to protect their countrymen in Mexico, but the native officials despise their authority and their protests have little or no effect. General Manager Johnson is making efforts to release the men.

**AN IMPORTANT TREATY.**

**The Countries of Central America Make an Alliance of Peace.**

SAN FRANCISCO, May 16.—A local paper has advised that a treaty of peace and alliance was entered into between Honduras, Salvador, Costa Rica and Nicaragua on April 12. Two days after the signing of the treaty President Zaldívar, of Salvador, issued a circular addressed to his ministers and generals, saying that as he only wished for peace and harmony he had accepted through the mediation of the several Central American states, a proposition proclaiming in Guatemala as well as in Salvador, a decree granting general amnesty to all involved in the late revolution.

President Zaldívar, besides exacting a war indemnity of \$10,000,000, says that to maintain peace in the future it would be necessary to dismember Guatemala, leaving to that country only sufficient land to equalize her strength and wealth with other Central American states. He asks other states to aid him in this project.

**BLOWN TO ATOMS.**

**Glycerine Factory Explodes, Creating Havoc and Death.**

SOMERSET, Pa., May 16.—The town of Somerset has been shaken from center to circumference by an explosion of nitro-glycerine and dynamite at the Somerset chemical works, one mile east of the town. The explosion occurred in the nitro-glycerine agitating house, where one of the proprietors, W. T. Beach, of New York city, was engaged at work. He was blown to atoms. The largest piece of bone, flesh or clothes that could be found was not larger than a silver dollar. The nitro-glycerine building, with eight others, were strewn to the winds, portions being found miles away.

The works were situated in an opening in a dense woods, the large trees of which were uprooted and blown down for rods around. From twelve to fifteen men are employed at the works, but owing to its being Ascension day none of them were at work.

**Convicts Escape.**

MILLICAN, Tex., May 16.—News has reached here that forty white convicts from the Clay farm, on the Brazos river, escaped from the guards and are now making their way up the river, riding mules taken from plows. A posse of guards and farmers are in pursuit.

## BARTHOLDI'S STATUE.

AMERICAN COLONISTS PRESENT A COPY TO FRANCE

The Good Feeling Prevailing Between France and America—Lord Randolph's Wrath—Granville Impugned—War Talk—Foreign Affairs.

PARIS, May 16.—The reduced copy of Bartholdi's statue of "Liberty Enlightening the World" was formerly presented by the American residents of the French capital to the municipality of Paris. The ceremonies of presentation and acceptance took place on the site of the statue, the Place des Etats-Unis. The Hon. Levi P. Morton, ex-United States minister, on behalf of the American donors made the speech of presentation, and that of acceptance was delivered by M. Bone, president of the municipal council of Paris. Mr. Morton said he hoped the gift would help perpetuate the friendship between the two nations which the changing events of a century had only strengthened. A breakfast was afterward given by Mr. Morton in honor of the sculptor, Bartholdi. Among the distinguished guests were M. Brisson, president of the council of ministers; M. Floquet, president of the chamber of deputies; Admiral Galiber, minister of marine, and M. de Lesseps.

M. De Freycinet assured Mr. Morton that the French government would make every effort to hasten the repeal of the decree forbidding the importation into France of American pork and the re-establishment of the system of inspection. Premier Brisson, replying to Mr. Morton, thanked the American committee for the gift, and dwelt upon the reciprocal friendship between France and America, which, he said, like the Bartholdi statue, illuminates, not menaces, the world. Referring to the energy of the Americans in the war of secession, M. Brisson said: "But there is no longer a question of war. In future, peace, liberty and justice between nations constitute the goal toward which two nations going hand-in-hand should march." He concluded by expressing regret at Mr. Morton's departure. The speech was heartily applauded. M. Bone spoke of the relations between France and the United States, recalling various evidences of the friendship uniting the two peoples. M. de Lesseps, who was the last speaker, thanked the Americans for the magnificent present.

**The Dynamiters.**

LONDON, May 16.—The evidence for the crown in the case of Cunningham and Burton, the alleged dynamiters, is completed. The last witnesses introduced by the crown were Drs. Ford and Dupre, the government chemists who testified in regard to the power of the explosives contained in the detonator found in Burton's trunk. The case for the defense was then opened. Mary O'Brien was the first witness, and she swore positively that Cunningham was at the house of a Miss Cannon at the time of the explosion in the Gower street station of the underground railroad. Catharine White fully corroborated Miss O'Brien's testimony. Burton's counsel submitted a statement to show that no evidence had been adduced to show that it was conspiracy. The judge declared the jury must decide the question. At the conclusion of the evidence for the defense Burton was granted permission to address the jury in his own behalf. He explained his presence in England at the time of the explosions by asserting that he left America because of failing health. He went on to explain his movements during his stay in London, in a rambling, disconnected manner, and concluded by calling on God to witness he was innocent. Burton spoke over an hour, and at times worked himself up to a high pitch of excitement. During the delivery of his harangue he frequently struck dramatic postures. His violent gestures caused considerable excitement. His remarks had anything but favorable effect. Burton was followed by his counsel, who argued the evidence for the crown, failed to prove his client implicated in any way with the explosion that had taken place up to the time of his arrest, while the attempt to prove a conspiracy was so weak he did not think it worthy of any remarks from him.

**Lord Randolph's Wrath.**

LONDON, May 16.—Earl Granville, in the house of lords, impugned the accuracy of statements made by Lord Randolph Churchill in his speech in the house of commons. The latter has written a lengthy and vigorous reply, which will appear in the Times. Lord Randolph says: "I never desired, and do not desire now, to be a member of the upper house; but I confess that when I read Earl Granville's remarks I felt a momentary wish to be a member of the house of lords for just a quarter of an hour in order to give Earl Granville a mild reply. The peers will do well when reforming their constitution to adopt the rule of the house of commons which prohibits the quoting in debate of speeches made in either house in previous debates of the same session. As the official reports of speeches are unobtainable, while newspaper reports are not always accurate, if Earl Granville wished to reply to my speech with regard to received notions of ordinary parliamentary fair play, he might have instructed Lord Edmund Fitzmaurice to take advantage of Monday's debate in the house of commons to correct what he assumes to be my errors. Lord Edmund Fitzmaurice is certainly not inferior to Earl Granville in intelligence, and might have been trusted to that extent. Or Earl Granville might have given me notice, when I could have asked some friend in the house of lords to reply in my behalf. These two courses, however, in Earl Granville's opinion were open to serious objection. First, they were fair and honorable; second, he would have been precluded from enjoying complete impunity in making foolish and ignorant charges against myself. Pray allow me through your columns to deal with this unhappy man." Lord Randolph then goes on to refute in detail Earl Granville's charges of inaccuracy.

**General Komaroff.**

ST. PETERSBURG, May 16.—Gen. Komaroff's latest dispatches regarding the collision between the Russians and Afghans near

Penjdeh reiterate with fuller details his earlier accounts of the affair. He says the Afghans sent a taunting message to the Russians, declaring that "they would thrash the Russians as they had thrashed the English." The Afghans, Gen. Komaroff again insists, fired the first shots and so were responsible for bringing on the engagement. Gen. Komaroff says he learned from prisoners who were captured in the battle that the Afghan leaders had ordered the Sariks to furnish a contingent of one thousand men to the Afghan army. The time which had been allowed the Sariks to determine whether they would comply with this order expired on the very day the battle occurred, and an answer from them was expected by the Afghans on that day. The effect produced by the Russian success on the minds of the neighboring people was so great that directly after the battle the Sarik and Ersarik Turcomans offered their allegiance to Russia. A few days after the battle—namely, on the 7th of April—Gen. Komaroff says he wrote to Taib Salar, the Afghan commander at Penjdeh, that he had no further animosity against the Afghans.

**Minister Phelps Arrives.**

SOUTHAMPTON, May 16.—The steamship Elbe, with United States Minister Phelps on board, arrived shortly after 3 p. m. The large crowds which had gathered on the piers enthusiastically cheered the party on landing. The town was beautifully decorated with flags and bunting in honor of the new minister. Two tugs, having on board the mayor and corporation of Southampton and Henry White, secretary of the legation, and Consul William Thompson, met the steamship and escorted her to the dock, where the mayor presented Mr. Phelps with an eulogistic address. The weather was fine and the ceremonies were marked with a heartiness seldom exhibited on a similar occasion. Mr. Lowell was prevented from being present owing to his having received a command from the queen to dine with her at Windsor.

**Is It Like Peace.**

LONDON, May 16.—Earl Granville is communicating with M. de Giers in regard to keeping order on the new Russo-Afghan frontier. It is reported that M. de Giers has asked whether England will accept responsibility for acts of the frontier tribes nominally under the control of the ameer. It is the intention of M. de Giers to leave Russia freedom to extend the frontier on the first excuse of tribal disorders. Meanwhile the most significant signs of peace are that the bulk of the commissariat stores recently collected at Quetta in preparation for war will be sold, and that the naval pensioners at Portsmouth recently called for service have been authorized to claim their discharge.

**A Hitch in the Line.**

ST. PETERSBURG, May 16.—A dispatch is received at the war office from Komaroff in which he states the Sariks are bitterly opposed to the new frontier line now under discussion by the Russian and English governments. He states the reason given by the Sariks for their opposition to the new frontier as that it gives the best of the disputed lands to the Afghans. Immediately on receipt of this dispatch a council was held, and it was decided to support the claims of the Sariks. Further "pourparlers" with England over this new hitch in the frontier arrangement are now in order.

**Russia Still Bulldozes.**

LONDON, May 16.—The Standard believes that Russia definitely declines to sanction the proposals regarding the Afghan frontier just submitted for approval by England. The Standard says: "To speak plainly, the draft of the agreement which was sent to St. Petersburg for approval is found to be wholly unacceptable to the czar's ministers. Though not formally rejected, it has been so thoroughly condemned in detail that practically it has ceased to be an agreement. We are back in February again, the situation being only altered to our disadvantage."

**Startling News.**

LONDON, May 16.—The Globe publishes a startling announcement that England has demanded from Russia a definite pledge that she will respect the new Afghan frontier, and that in any circumstances she shall renew her assurances concerning the integrity of Afghanistan outside the at present conceded Russian sphere. The Globe also asserts that Russia has refused to accede to England's request and goes on to some length demanding further concessions.

**America Whips.**

LONDON, May 16.—The last of a series of court tennis games between Thomas Pettit, of Boston, the American champion, and George Lambert, the English champion, for the international championship, was played at Hampton court. Mr. Pettit scored the last four sets and won the championship. The score stood seven to five.

**A Musselman Revolt.**

TEHRAN, May 16.—The Musselman inhabitants of Kashgar, a city of Chinese Turkestan, have revolted and asked Russian protection. Desperate fighting is now going on.

**Papers From the Pope.**

ROME, May 16.—Signor Ferratta has departed for Brussels with papers from the pope to King Leopold of Belgium.

**Will Ratify in Autumn.**

BERLIN, May 16.—Germany and Austria will probably not be able to ratify the Egyptian convention until autumn.

**SEVEN HUNDRED POISONED.**

**Excursionists Eat Ice Cream With Probable Fatal Results.**

TALLULAH, Ga., May 16.—An excursion of members of St. Paul's M. E. church of Atlanta, numbering about 700, has arrived here. Shortly after dinner the people began to get sick by dozens, until at last about 150 were laid out under the trees in an unconscious condition.

The engine was at once sent down the road, gathering up the doctors along the way, while a scene of the wildest confusion existed on the picnic grounds. Seventy of the sufferers are in a critical condition, with a possibility of many deaths. The cause of the wholesale poisoning is supposed to be due to ice cream.